

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-10 /070 W

----- 129696

R 140900Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2141

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, AF

SUBJ: EVENTS AND NON-EVENTS IN PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: PAST WEEK IN PAK-AFGHAN AFFAIRS MARKED BY CURIOUS UNWILLINGNESS ON PART OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO PUBLISH NEWS EMANATING FROM PAKISTAN THAT SHERPAO ASSASSINS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, AND WHAT APPEARS DELIBERATE AFGHAN DECISION NOT TO USE SOME KIND OF DISPARAGEMENT OF STORY AS MEANS OF FURTHERING AFGHAN POSITION. SIMILARLY, NO PUBLIC MENTION MADE HERE OF PRIVATE AFGHAN CHARGES PAKISTANIS ARE DELIBERATELY SLOWING TANSIT MERCHANDISE BOUND HERE VIA KARACHI. PROPAGANDA WAR CONTINUES WITH EACH SIDE NOW APPEARING EQUAL IN VENOM CONTENT, AND FROM SOUTHWEST COME STORIES OF MEASURES AFGHANS TAKING TO INSURE NO ARMS NOR PAK AGENTS ARRIVE WITH RETURNING NOMADS. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGINING TO APPEAR THAT BIGGEST EVENT HERE IN PAST WEEK OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WAS IN FACT NON-EVENT: WE HAVE NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD ANY RESPONSE FROM AFGHAN MEDIA TO ANNOUNCEMENT BY GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN THAT ITS AUTHORITIES HAVE DISCOVERED MURDERERS OF SHERPAO (ISLAMABAD 2861).

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3. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMATION OFFICE DIRECTOR SAID IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS THAT THE NEWS STORIES, WHICH HE KNEW OF BUT PROFESSED TO BELIEVE WERE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE PAK "PROVINCIAL PRESS", HAD NOT BEEN FOUND WORTH ANY ATTENTION. CERTAINLY THIS WAS TRUE WITH REGARD TO HIS MINISTRY, AND HE COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT AFGHANISTAN'S BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY HAD FELT SIMILARLY. HE JESTED THAT BAKHTAR, LIKE A FAMOUS U.S. PAPER, WAS DEVOTED TO NEWS "FIT TO PRINT", AND APPARENTLY ARRESTS OF ALLEGED SHERPAO ASSASSINS NOT IN THIS CATEGORY.

4. A SIMILAR NON-EVENT WAS FACT THAT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED NOT TO DISCLOSE ALLEGATIONS IT HAS MADE PRIVATELY TO US THAT GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN DELIBERATELY SLOWING DOWN SHIPMENTS VIA PORT OF KARACHI INTENDED FOR AFGHANISTAN. THIS SEEMS A CURIOUS OMISSION IN THAT THERE HAS BEEN FAIRLY EXTENSIVE REPORTING BY BAKHTAR AGENCY ON SUSPENSION OF THE SINDH PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY, AND SINDH TEACHERS' STRIKE, REPORTING HAS ALSO COVERED THOROUGHLY LABOR DISPUTES IN KARACHI, LAHORE AND HYDERABAD, INCLUDING ONE REPORT OF RAILWAY WORKERS ON STRIKE.

5. ON PROPAGANDA FRONT, PAK RADIO BROADCAST OF APRIL 3 MONITORED HERE NOTED PREDICTING THAT AFGHAN PEOPLE, HAVING "RECOGNIZED THE ENEMY" (DAOUD) WILL NOT "LET THESE TYRANTS RUN AWAY TO EUROPE THIS TIME. THEY WILL KILL THEM RIGHT IN KABUL, WHERE THEY CONTROLLED THEIR TYRANNY. THEY WILL BE KILLED RIGHT IN THE PALACE." THIS CALL FOR DAOUD'S DEATH, WE BELIEVE, EVENS ANY SCORES IN THE ONGOING PROPAGANDA WAR (KABUL 2163) AND, IF INDEED THIS WERE NOT ALREADY THE CASE, PUTS THE CLAMOR ON A "MEASURE FOR MEASURE" BASIS.

6. FINALLY, ON YET ANOTHER SUBJECT, RELIABLE STORIES LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT TROUBLE HAS BREWED ON AFGHANISTAN'S SOUTHWEST FRONTIER WHERE, FEARING PAKISTANIS MAY BE SEEKING TO INSINUATE AGENTS AND ARMS INTO THIS COUNTRY, GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO SEARCH TRIBAL PEOPLE RETURNING TO HIGH PASTURES IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER WINTERING IN PAKISTAN. MEASURES HAVE, ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS ENGENDERED

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HOSTILITY AMONG THESE NOMADS.
ELIOT

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